

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 181755

FOR EA ONLY, MANILA POUCH CEBU

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PDIP, RP

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - PHILIPPINES

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/PHL: JAMES SARTORIUS

1. NEW YORK INCIDENT (CONFIDENTIAL)

PHILIPPINE ACTING UN PERMREP YANGO REFUSES TO RELINQUISH
THE BONE HE HAS BEEN GNAWING ON FOR THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS.
ON JULY 17 HE TOLD AMBASSADOR LEONARD HE COULD NOT SIGN THE
REVISED DRAFT REPORT TO THE US AND PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENTS
UNDER OUR CONDITION THAT THE MATTER THEREUPON BE CONSIDERED
CLOSED. LEONARD REPLIED THAT IN THAT CASE HE COULD NOT SIGN
WITHOUT SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON. YANGO THEN
PROPOSED THAT THE DRAFT REPORT BE REFERRED TO THE RESPECTIVE
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GOVERNMENTS. WE AGREE WITH LEONARD'S COMMENT THAT SIMPLY
FILING THE UNSIGNED DRAFT REPORT WOULD BE FINE FROM USUN'S
STANDPOINT.

YANGO HAS SIMULTANEOUSLY ASKED WHETHER THE ENTIRE PHILIP-
PINES CENTER ON FIFTH AVENUE CAN BE TREATED AS HAVING THE
CHARACTER OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PREMISES. OUR PRELIMI-

NARY SOUNDINGS INDICATE THAT THE ANSWER WILL BE NEGATIVE SO LONG AS THE CENTER HOUSES COMMERCIAL FACILITIES--INCLUDING A RESTAURANT--THAT ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. EMBASSY MANILA HAS POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT SOME OF ITS PROPERTIES FOR WHICH WE WOULD ASSERT THE STATUS OF DIPLOMATIC PREMISES ALSO ACCOMMODATE FACILITIES OF A COMMERCIAL NATURE AND THE DISTINCTION THAT THOSE FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE ONLY TO US EMPLOYEES WOULD BE LOST ON--OR MISUNDERSTOOD BY--THE FILIPINOS. TACTICALLY, THEREFORE, WE INTEND TO MOVE WITH VERY DELIBERATE SPEED ON YANGO'S REQUEST, SINCE A NEGATIVE REPLY ON THE PHILIPPINES CENTER WOULD BE APT TO CREATE PROBLEMS WHENEVER IT WAS COMMUNICATED AND WOULD BE PARTICULARLY UNHELPFUL NOW. MEANWHILE, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ROMULO IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON ON JULY 27, A WEEK IN ADVANCE OF THE ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING. HE MIGHT REPEAT MIGHT BE OF USE IN QUIETING YANGO.

2. IMELDA PROPOSES MEETING WITH CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS
(CONFIDENTIAL)

AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ CALLED ON OAKLEY JULY 17 TO STATE THAT MRS. MARCOS IS INTERESTED IN MEETING THE 124 CONGRESSIONAL SIGNERS OF THE LETTER ADDRESSED TO MARCOS LAST APRIL EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER REPORTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND OPINING THAT REDRESSMENT EFFORTS
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WERE CRUCIAL TO CONTINUED US AID. AS RELATED BY ROMUALDEZ, IMELDA IS PREPARED TO COME DOWN FROM NEW YORK NEXT MONDAY OR TUESDAY (JULY 24-25) TO TALK WITH AS MANY CONGRESSMEN AS MAY BE AVAILABLE AND INTERESTED, AT A TIME AND PLACE OF THEIR CHOOSING ON THE HILL, TO GIVE THE QUOTE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY END QUOTE. OAKLEY RELAYED THE MESSAGE TO CONGRESSMAN BEDELL, WHO INITIATED THE LETTER. HE IS WORKING ON A SMALL MEETING AND WILL INFORM US (AND THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY) OF THE ARRANGEMENTS.

ROMUALDEZ MADE NO MENTION OF IMELDA'S INTEREST (THROUGH FEELERS VIA QUOTE KOKOY END QUOTE) FOR A MEETING WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT OR OTHER HIGH-LEVEL USG OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, THE AMBASSADOR AND OTHER SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT SHE MAY BE IN WASHINGTON FOR THE SIGNING OF AN IBRD LOAN (DOLS 88 MILLION, MANILA WATER II) TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR NEXT FRIDAY.

WE HAVE RECEIVED LITTLE INFORMATION ON IMELDA'S ACTIVITIES IN N.Y. APART FROM THE REPORT THAT SHE HAS BEEN IN THE COMPANY OF VAN CLIBURN AND WAS PRESENT AT FUNERAL SERVICES FOR JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, III. WHEN ASKED HOW MRS. MARCOS

WAS ENJOYING HER STAY IN THE U.S., ROMAULDEZ REPLIED:
QUOTE SHE'S GETTING RESTLESS END QUOTE.

COMMENT: DOREMUS, THE GOP'S US PR FIRM, MAY HAVE HAD A HAND IN SUGGESTING THE CONGRESSIONAL TACTIC. DEPENDING ON IMELDA'S PRESENTATION AND Demeanor, IT COULD TURN OUT TO BE MODERATELY SUCCESSFUL OR A REAL DISASTER. ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, WE ARE HOPING THAT AT LEAST A REASONABLE NUMBER OF CONGRESSMEN TURN OUT SO THAT SHE CANNOT RETURN TO MANILA IN A QUOTE MARTYR END QUOTE ROLE, BY CLAIMING SYMPATHY FOR HAVING BEEN SLIGHTED IN TRYING TO RESPOND TO THE PHILIPPINES' CRITICS.

3. CHARITO PLANAS ALSO SEEKING CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS
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(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

CHARITO PLANAS HAS REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT WITH SEN. JOHN GLENN AND WILL DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A MEETING WITH STAFFER DENNIS WILDER TODAY, JULY 18. IN CALLING CAROLYN CHRISTIAN YESTERDAY FOR BACKGROUND ON PLANAS, WILDER SAID PLANAS AND RAUL MANGLAPUS HAVE BEEN REQUESTING APPOINTMENTS WITH SEVERAL SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES, BUT GLENN WAS RELUCTANT TO MEET WITH HER PENDING WILDER'S EVALUATION. WILDER ASKED WHO ELSE PLANAS HAD MET SINCE ARRIVING IN US JUNE 5, AND WAS TOLD PATT DERIAN HAD SEEN HER. CHRISTIAN THEN ALERTED WILDER TO PRESS DISTORTIONS CREATED BY MANGLAPUS LAST YEAR AFTER MEETING WITH DERIAN, AND HER SUBSEQUENT AVOIDANCE OF MEETINGS WITH HIM. (NOTE: WE UNDERSTAND HA MADE IT CLEAR TO MANGLAPUS, WITH WHOSE FAMILY PLANAS IS STAYING, THAT DERIAN WISHED A PRIVATE MEETING WITH PLANAS, IN WHICH ONLY ONE OBSERVER/NOTETAKER, HA STAFFER LON MORIN, SAT IN.) WILDER APPRECIATED BEING ALERTED TO THIS POSSIBLE TACTIC AND WILL LET US KNOW HOW THE MEETING GOES.

4. ANTI-BASES DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, JULY 24

(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

COINCIDENT WITH IMELDA'S POSSIBLE VISIT NEXT WEEK, WE HAVE JUST LEARNED FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE (FFP) THAT THE RECENTLY-FORMED NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO WITHDRAW U.S. BASES FROM THE PHILIPPINES HAS SCHEDULED, AS ITS FIRST PUBLIC ACTION, A PICKET LINE IN FRONT OF THE DEPARTMENT NEXT MONDAY, JULY 24, FROM 12 NOON TO 1 PM. THIS WILL FOLLOW ON THE HEELS OF THIS COMING WEEKEND'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE FFP, WHICH IS PROMOTING THE PICKETING AS
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THE MAJOR HIGHLIGHT OF THE CONFERENCE.

5. PLEASE NOTE FOR EA ONLY CAPTION.

CHRISTOPHER

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